

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, SF

SUBJ: MATANZIMA STILL SEEKING MORE LAND BEFORE AGREEING
TO INDEPENDENCE

REF: DURBAN 46

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE WIDESPREAD EXPECTATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR TRANSKEI IN 1976, CHIEF MINISTER MATANZIMA INDICATED PRIVATELY HE PREPARED DELAY SUCH DEVELOPMENT UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL PORTION HIS LONG-STANDING LAND CLAIMS MET FIRST. CHIEF MINISTER APPEARS BELIEVE THIS PLAY WILL SUCCEED AND THAT HE IN GOOD POSITION WRING FURTHER CONCESSIONS FROM SAG BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WIDE-RANGING SERIES OF INTERVIEWS IN UMTATA FEB 2-4, AF/S DEPUTY DIRECTOR ARENALES AND DURBAN CONGEN HOLMES FOUND ALMOST TOTAL AGREEMENT THAT TRANSKEI WILL BE INDEPENDENT SOON, PROBABLY IN LATE 1976. DESPITE PROBABLE SHORT TIME BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, LITTLE HARD PLANNING FOR PROBLEMS OF THAT STATUS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DONE. TWO OFFICERS FOUND GENERAL PESSIMISM AS TO ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO FORM BASIS OF ECONOMY (OUTSIDE VITAL PROVISION OF MIGRANT
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LABORERS TO SA NOW ESTIMATED AT 250,000) AND A GENERAL

AWARENESS OF NEED TO RELY ON SAG FOR HEAVY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

3. IN INTERVIEW FEBRUARY 4, CHIEF MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA STRUCK CAUTIONARY NOTE WHEN HE INSISTED THAT DESPITE GENERAL EXPECTATIONS HE STILL PREPARED PUT OFF INDEPENDENCE UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF HIS LAND CLAIMS MET BY SAG. ALTHOUGH HE HAD MODIFIED SOMEWHAT HIS PREVIOUS PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR HUGE TRACTS OF WHITE LAND IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND SAG OFFICIALS, HIS IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM WAS, HE INSISTED, WELL BEYOND THAT PROPOSED BY SAG LAST YEAR OR PROVIDED IN 1936 LAND ACT. IN PARTICULAR, HE MUST HAVE GLEN GREY DISTRICT, NOW PART OF CISCHE, AND WOULD "FIGHT FOR IT" IF NECESSARY. UNLESS PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT EXPECTED NEXT FEW WEEKS INCLUDED ACCEPTANCE HIS "COMPROMISE" PROPOSALS (WHICH HE DECLINED SPECIFY IN DETAIL), HE PREPARED REFUSE COOPERATE WITH SAG AND BLOCK INDEPENDENCE AT LEAST FOR NOW. PRIME MINISTER WAS AWARE OF HIS ATTITUDE, AND MATANZIMA HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE MEET HIS LAND CLAIMS. HE STATED EMPHATICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NOT JOIN OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS IN REFUSING INDEPENDENCE.

4. DURING INTERVIEW MATANZIMA DIVULGED HE PLANNING ANNOUNCE LATE FEBRUARY VERY LARGE HYDROELECTRIC/IRRIGATION SCHEME WHICH SAG WILL CONSTRUCT TO UTILIZE SEVERAL OF TRANSKEI'S LARGER RIVERS. HE SAID THIS WOULD BEGIN TWO YEARS FROM NOW AND BE COMPLETED SOME TWO YEARS LATER. STATED UNCERTAINTY OF CABORA BASSA AS ENERGY SOURCE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR SAG DECISION. RESULTING SALE OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER TO SA WOULD, HE SAID, EVENTUALLY YIELD SOME 40 MILLION RAND PER YEAR AND HELP SOLVE TRANSKEI'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

5. IN FURTHER COMMENTS MATANZIMA CONFIRMED HE PUTTING OFF "CONTENTIOUS" SUBJECT OF CITIZENSHIP UNTIL AFTER INDEPENDENCE (REFTEL). AT END OF INTERVIEW HE MENTIONED ALMOST CASUALLY THAT HE HOPED OPEN AN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SHORTLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. HE HINTED HE WOULD WELCOME US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CITING TWO PROJECTS IN WHICH HE THOUGHT US MIGHT EVENTUALLY WISH BECOME INVOLVED: AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR UMTATA AND A PORT AT MOUTH OF MTATA RIVER. VISITORS WERE NON-COMMITTAL.

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6. COMMENT: DESPITE CAUTIONARY NOTE ADVANCED BY MATANZIMA OVER LAND CLAIMS, IT STILL CLEAR HE MUCH ATTRACTED BY IDEA OF EARLY INDEPENDENCE. ON BALANCE IT APPEARS THAT AS SHREWD TACTICIAN HE WILL EXTRACT LAST POSSIBLE OUNCE OF CONCESSION FROM SAG BEFORE AGREEING TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE INDEPENDENCE WHICH HE WELL AWARE SAG SO EAGER TO GRANT. HIS DEMANDS FOR MORE LAND THAN PROVIDED IN THE 1936 LAND ACT WILL HOWEVER POSE A REAL DILEMMA FOR SAG, WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY AND EMPHATICALLY SET THAT ACT'S

PROVISIONS AS MAXIMUM FOR ALL THE HOMELANDS. TO TRANSCEND
THAT ACT FOR TRANSKEI WOULD OPEN WAY FOR FENEWED DEMANDS BY
OTHER HOMELANDS.
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